



Photo by Bonnie Burrow
Thanks, Handy Market, for the photo opportunity!

“Every morning I awake, torn between a desire to save the world and an inclination to savor it. That makes it hard to plan the day.”

—E.B. White, essayist, author, humorist, poet and literary stylist.

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WASTE AND WEATHER GO TOGETHER!

IF CALIFORNIA WERE an independent nation, it would be either the sixth, seventh or tenth largest economy in the world, depending on whom you talk to; and tourism, which is at least partly dependent upon good weather, adds significant revenue to the Golden State's economy.

California is also the world's twelfth largest source of carbon dioxide—the chief heat-trapping gas that causes global warming (and in some cases, cooling), known today as climate change. Climate change has big impacts on our lives—more frequent and intense storms, flooding of coastal areas, increased rains in some regions, decreased rains in others and increased distribution of infectious diseases, says the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

It is understandable, therefore, why state assembly members and authors, Fabian Nunez and Fran Pavely, of California's landmark Global Warming Solutions Act (AB 32), which Governor Schwarzenegger signed last year, say California has a responsibility to reduce its share of emissions.

Garbage is a significant contributor to climate change. Dumped in uncontrolled landfills, it is the single largest man-made source of methane gas in the U.S., solid waste experts

say. Methane gas traps heat in the atmosphere and causes global warming/climate change. Therefore, every time we “throw something away,” we are contributing to climate change.

Burbank's landfill has had a gas collection system in place for many years. Landfill gas collected from the site is used to fuel microturbines that produce enough electricity for about 100 homes.

There are other sources of methane. Such activities as the process of manufacturing, distributing and consuming—using things we throw away—results in greenhouse gas emissions that affect the earth's climate. These activities require extraction of forests, oil, minerals, crops, soil; transportation; warehousing, retailing, advertising; landfilling and more. Methane from livestock manure also creates emissions:

American Electric Power, the nation's largest electric generator, will begin paying farmers in the West and Mid-West to capture methane from livestock manure to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, says Waste News, May 15, 2007—but that's another story for another time.

We can make a difference. First of all, the best thing to do about waste is not to create it in the first place. Refuse products that have a fleeting life span—

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Natalie Hernandez, 2nd grade.
Photo, Bonnie Burrow



The Early Bird Catches the Worm,
Arbrianna Rohan, 2nd grade.
Photo, Bonnie Burrow

MAKING LESS MESS

A Burbank resident asked the Recycle Center to run an information exchange column in which readers can send in their recycling ideas. Staff would like to start the column off with a few things we do at our office.

❖ **PAPER-LESS LUNCHES:** Reusable plastic or ceramic plates, jelly glasses brought from home, mugs acquired from conferences, thrift-shop silverware, plates—all help limit kitchen trash. Cleaned-up vinyl banners from various Burbank studios serve as festive tablecloths for the occasional party.

❖ **FOOD:** We throw away hardly any food at the Center. Everyone puts food scraps into a cut-off half-gallon jug in the freezer. When full, it is dumped in our compost bins just a few yards away. We are now spreading lovely black soil on our plants.

❖ **SIGNS:** Those old campaign signs from people's lawns have been turned inside out and the backs used for new signs.

❖ We **RIDE BIKES** and **CARPPOOL** to work.

❖ **RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES:** Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation (RBRC) boxes in our office collect dead rechargeables from City offices. When the boxes fill up, we mail them free of charge to the RBRC. Your organization can do the same.

(See www.rbrc.org for instructions).

❖ **SCRAP** plastic and scrap metal bins are available a few yards from the Recycle Center kitchen door. These bins are also available for the public for the same plastics and metals not allowed in curbside recycle bins—a plastic toy, car bumper, small pieces of metal pipe, pots and pans, etc.

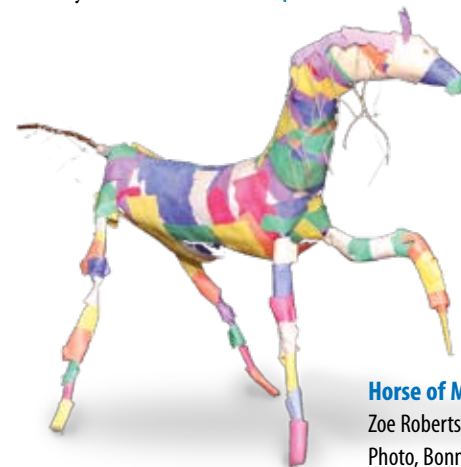
What are your suggestions for "making less mess" at home, at work or at play? Send them to the Burbank Recycle Center, 500 S. Flower St., Burbank, CA 91502 or hmcagoon@ci.burbank.ca.us.

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plastic bags, disposable coffee cups, throwaways. Buy only what you need. Rent, borrow or share things you use infrequently. Repair and maintain the things you have. Reuse rather than toss.

The next best thing to do is recycle, says Scott Smithline, policy analyst for Californians Against Waste (CAW). Ton for ton, says Smithline, recycling reduces more pollution, more greenhouse gas emissions and saves more energy than any other human activity except waste prevention. Recycling just 35 percent of our trash, for example, reduces global warming emissions equivalent to taking 36 million cars off the road.

The state's Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) also tells us that over 60 percent of what is in a landfill could and should be recycled or composted. Some recyclers see the day when they will have to dig into landfills on a grand scale to unearth materials that we toss out daily—metals, glass, plastic, paper. But why not stem the flow of perfectly useful materials before they are landfilled? ♻️



Horse of Many Colors,
Zoe Robertson, 4th grade.
Photo, Bonnie Burrow

SNEAKS BUILD SPORTS FIELDS!



THE WORD IS OUT: Burbank sends your unwanted sneakers to Nike's Oregon plant where they are ground and made into material for new sports fields. This year, Earth Day projects and a few end-of-the-year locker room cleanouts at the cities of West Hollywood and Los Angeles and the Granada Hills Charter School, El Segundo Center Street School, a La Canada Brownie troop and the dropoff bins at Burbank Water and Power and the Recycle Center have amassed a sneaker deluge. The El Segundo school, for example, recently dropped off 4,480 pounds (approximately 2,700 pairs) of ready-to-be-ground-up sneakers.

PLASTIC BAGS REVISITED

A NEW STATE LAW aimed at removing plastic bags from the California landscape went into effect this July. It requires supermarkets and chain drug stores to recycle plastic bags, place a collection bin inside the store premises, implement a public education program and sell reusable bags.

NEWS OF PLASTIC BAG BANS keeps pouring in from all over the world, as we enumerated last newsletter—Ireland, Denmark, Africa, Australia, India. More places join the fray almost weekly:

- ❖ Pakistan has outlawed plastic bags of a certain thickness. Breaking the bag law carries penalties of three months in jail and/or an \$825 (U.S. dollars) fine. The law is being aggressively enforced.
- ❖ Phoenix, AZ, is working with grocery stores to come up with a plastic bag solution. It plans to ultimately phase out plastic bags.
- ❖ Modbury, Devon, England, a town of 1,500, will banish plastic bags completely by replacing them with reusable ones of jute, cotton, recyclable paper and biodegradable plastic.
- ❖ Ontario, Canada, has brokered a voluntary agreement with recycling officials and grocer and plastics associations to launch an educational campaign to reduce bag usage and make reusables readily available.

HERE IN BURBANK, IKEA added a 5 cent fee for disposable plastic bags and has produced an 80 percent reduction in their use. In less than three months, the store has sold over 38,000 reusable Big Blue Bags (BBBs) for 59 cents each. Money from the sale of plastic bags is sent to an American Forests fund to plant trees.

Yes, plastic bags are recyclable when returned to the Recycle Center. (Please don't put them in your recycling containers). They are also accepted at supermarkets, however:

- ❖ Nationwide, less than 6 percent of them get recycled.
- ❖ The economics of recycling them are not so appealing, since sorting and contamination cause inefficiencies.
- ❖ A growing trend is to ship them to third world countries where they may be cheaply incinerated under more lax environmental laws.
- ❖ They use oil and toxic chemicals in the manufacturing process.
- ❖ Plastics in the ocean have been measured to exceed naturally occurring plankton



by more than six times, according to the Algarita Foundation.

EVEN COMPOSTABLE PLASTIC BAGS CAN BE A PROBLEM.

They can't be mixed with existing plastic bags. They must be separated from non-compostable ones to satisfy the requirements of both recycling and composting processes. Some "compostable" bags are not accepted at all composting facilities, and others do not biodegrade in water. The best answer is **BYOB, Bring Your Own Bag.** ♻️



Build a Bag
Winston Browne, 3rd grade
Photo, Bonnie Burrow

CAN IT, PLEASE!

Meat grease, butter, shortening, cooking oil poured down the drain in the sink sticks to the inside of sewer pipes both on your property and in the streets. Over a period of time, grease can block these pipes and cause sewer overflows and backups, which, of course, are not attractive, cheap to clean up or good for your health, property or the environment. Neither home garbage disposals nor commercial additives such as detergents keep grease out of the plumbing system or dissolve it.

Please do not pour grease down sink drains or into toilets:

- ❖ Scrape grease and food scraps from trays, plates, pots, pans, utensils, grills and cooking surfaces into a can or the trash for disposal.
- ❖ Pour grease into a can to allow it to solidify, put the top on, store it on a countertop or in the refrigerator and put it in the trash.

❖ Put baskets/strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids and empty them into the trash.

Restaurants, large buildings and other commercial establishments may have grease traps or interceptors to keep grease out of the sewer system; but to work correctly, they must be designed to handle sufficient quantity, installed properly and cleaned and serviced frequently.



California Department of Conservation.

CRV PAYMENT BY POUND OR NUMBER

Why are many customers confused over CRV (California Refund Value) payment at the scale? It may be an exaggeration to say that now almost no two beverage containers are alike; but since bottles and cans vary in size, weight and type of material, the California Department of Conservation (DOC) sets the CRV prices by the pound, by material type. The DOC recalculates the prices every year to make sure you receive the same CRV that you paid. Bottles and cans can be paid for individually, just ask an attendant to do so. As CRVChronicles@Conservation.ca.gov states:

“The consumer has the right to be paid per container when bringing in 50 (fifty) containers or fewer of each material type (aluminum, plastic, glass and bi-metal) in a single load. Recycling centers, at their discretion, may redeem more than 50 containers per material by count.”

For questions about payment or CRV, visit www.bottlesandcans.org or call 818-238-3900 or 1-800-RECYCLE (732-9253).

NO CHEESE WHIZ, PLASTIC BAGS, LITTER!

Green waste goes to farms and comes back to your plate; so, too, does any contamination that goes with it.

Burbank residents are very conscientious. They keep their green carts full of organic stuff such as grass and leaves—most of the time! But the state has raised the ante on green waste and will not allow more than .3 percent contamination, so that our soil remains healthy. That's less than a third of one percent—akin to “next to nothing”, one might say.

Rejection is hard to take, says our green waste contractor! Please make sure that the contents of the green bins are for green waste only—branches, leaves, shrubs, vines—in other words, yard trimmings. Fallen fruit is okay, but these contaminants are not:

- No food waste (except fallen fruit)
- No garbage or litter
- No paper, plastics, metals, glass or other recyclables
- No diapers, horse manure, dog or cat droppings

NOTE: Since January 1, 2007, consumers have paid 4 cents for each CRV bottle or can of less than 24 ounces at point of purchase and 8 cents for CRV beverage containers 24 ounces or more and have received 5 cents and 10 cents, respectively, in return. In July, the CRV paid will match the refund value received. Consumers will pay and receive 5 and 10 cents CRV respectively.



California Department of Conservation.



RECYCLE @ YOUR LIBRARY!

On your way to a Burbank library? Take your unwanted household batteries, eyeglasses, printer ink cartridges, gently used books, CDs and DVDs. Practice reuse, too, while you're there—check out a book! **Questions? Call 818-238-5600.**

IF IT'S BULKY, LET US KNOW

The weekly Bulky Item Pickup Program is a free collection service for oversized items such as large appliances, furniture, carpet, hot water tanks, etc. for Burbank residents and businesses. If you need this service, call 818-238-3805 at least two business days prior to the refuse collection day in your area and leave a message on the tape. Call 818-238-3800 for questions about the program. If you see furniture, computers or other abandoned bulky items on any Burbank street for longer than a week, please report the items to the Bulky hotline 818-238-3805.

Construction and demolition (C&D) materials, such as bricks, glass, concrete, metal and wood are not picked up via the Bulky program. Call the Recycle Center for information about C&D materials disposal.

Speaking of C & D materials, Burbank has joined almost half the 88 cities in Los Angeles County in enacting a construction and demolition recycling ordinance. The ordinance requires that half the materials produced from new construction or demolition headed for disposal must be detoured to recycling. Most contractors say they recycle these materials on their jobs anyway. If you have questions about the ordinance, please call Burbank Building at 818-238-5198.

AWAY WITH HAZARDOUS WASTE!

RECYCLE USED OIL, FILTERS

Because motor oil contaminates waterways, it is illegal to pour used motor oil into a storm drain or sewer, in the trash, onto the ground or into waterways or to put oil filters in the trash; but they are easily recycled and contain valuable materials. Filters, for example, may contain a pound of steel and hold up to a quart of oil.

Please take oil, filters and anti-freeze to the Center weekdays, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. (The oil center is closed Saturdays, but the Recycle Center is open, as usual, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Saturdays.) Call 1-888-CLEAN LA (253-2652) or visit www.888CleanLA.com for a list of other certified oil centers in Burbank for used oil disposal.

RE-REFINED MOTOR OIL

Re-refined motor oil, certified by the American Petroleum Institute, is of excellent quality and comparable to virgin oil, say the following:

- ❖ The City of Burbank uses re-refined oil in all its CNG vehicles—trash trucks, sweepers, Forestry Division boom truck and others.
- ❖ The State of California fleets of over 30,000 vehicles use re-refined oil.
- ❖ Mercedes-Benz installs re-refined oil in all new vehicles manufactured.
- ❖ The California Transportation Department says: “Re-refined oil products are equal in quality to conventional lubricants.”
- ❖ According to the state, re-refined oil prices are competitive or equivalent to virgin oil products.

Funding for oil programs is provided by a grant from the California Integrated Waste Management Board.



PAINT AND MORE PAINT

About a third of all household hazardous waste (HHW) collected at local roundups is paint, and almost all of it is reprocessed into a usable commodity; but it costs local governments about \$8 per gallon to collect it, says Glen Gallagher of the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB). He suggests people buy only the amount needed to do the job, use it all up or donate the leftovers to a neighbor, business or charity. Gallagher, the optimist, encourages people to buy recycled paint. He says: “...a vigorous market for recycled paint could transform a considerable liability into a profit center.” The pessimistic side of the man says that almost 75 percent of the paint now sold is not disposed of properly. Please take unwanted paint to an HHW roundup.

MEDICINE LEFTOVERS

Exposure even to low levels of pharmaceuticals has been shown to have negative effects on fish, other aquatic species and probably on human health. Many of us were trained to flush unwanted drugs down the toilet to keep them out of the hands of others, especially children. However, if trashed or flushed, pharmaceuticals end up in the ground or surface waters and could pose a growing threat to public health. The August 11 HHW roundup in Burbank is an excellent opportunity to clean out the medicine closet.



WE ARE NOW ACCEPTING...

IN YOUR RECYCLING CARTS, please include the wide-mouth plastic margarine and butter tubs, cottage cheese containers, deli containers for that half-pound of fruit salad, thin-cut ham or avocado dip—all plastic containers, numbers 1-7, commonly found in markets. Please rinse them out before putting them in your recycling container. You may also include plastic containers for non-food (non-toxic) items. *No Styrofoam, please.*



ELECTRONIC FACTOIDS

“LESS IS MORE” said well-known architect, Mies van der Rohe, when his 38-story unadorned landmark Seagrams building joined the New York City skyline in 1957. It's a phrase to ponder when considering the purchase of electronics.

When visions of new electronics dance in your head, consider this:

- ❖ **60 MILLION:** Researchers at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh say landfills around the nation's major cities house more than 60 million computers.
- ❖ **ALL ELECTRONICS** must be recycled, says California state law, in order to protect human and environmental health.
- ❖ **4 POUNDS:** The cathode ray tube (CRT) in computer monitors contains about four pounds each of lead. Computer parts also contain mercury, arsenic, cadmium and chromium—all valuable but toxic heavy metals. Apple Computer has announced that it is the first computer maker to eliminate CRTs, thereby eliminating some of the hazards of electronic waste (e-waste.)
- ❖ **INCINERATED,** e-waste toxins hover in the air; **BURIED,** they can leach into the water supply.
- ❖ **100 POUNDS:** The Recycle Center accepts household quantities or about 100 pounds of electronics each year. If you can't take them to the Center, call Bulky Item (p. 4), 818-238-3805, for pickup. To recycle larger quantities, call 818-238-3900 for a list of state-registered recyclers.

- ❖ **75 PERCENT** of the electricity used to power home electronics is consumed while the products are turned off, says the U.S. Department of Energy. Plasma TVs, for example, can actually take more energy when turned off than when on, warns Global Green, U.S.A.'s Green Building Resource Center in Santa Monica.

SAVE THE DAY— AND THE DATES!

BASIC BIKE TUNE-UP WORKSHOP

Sat., July 28, 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Burbank Recycle Center
500 S. Flower St., Burbank, CA

NEW! Bike tune-up workshop. Limited to six adults. Learn to fix flats, inspect, lubricate and adjust your bike. Please R.S.V.P. Call 818-238-3900 to sign up or for more information.

COMPOST WORKSHOP

Wed., July 25, 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Burbank Recycle Center
500 S. Flower St., Burbank

Want to reduce waste, restore soils, and grow healthier gardens? Learn the most environmentally-friendly methods of backyard composting. Free composters for Burbank residents. R.S.V.P. to 818-238-3900, M-F, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

TIRE RECYCLING DAY

Sat., July 28, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Glendale Recycling Center
540 W. Chevy Chase Dr., Glendale

Bring used tires to this free L.A. County tire recycling one-day event. No tires from businesses and no oversized or tractor tires are accepted; but tire rims are accepted. If you plan to transport more than nine tires per trip, call 626-430-5540 by July 20.

BURBANK TOXIC ROUNDUP

Sat., Aug. 11, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Burbank Fire Training Center
1845 N. Ontario, Burbank

The annual L.A. County household hazardous waste (HHW) roundup accepts paints, pesticides, solvents, electronics, vehicle fluids, propane tanks, batteries, etc. Call 888-CLEAN LA, www.888.CleanLA.com or the Center at 818-238-3900 for questions. Please support this free HHW roundup in Burbank.

NURDLES AND MORE ON THE HORIZON

Aware of shrinking resources and climate change, California lawmakers are bandying about a number of bills and directives that would avoid burial of valuable materials. Below is a sample of some major waste issues on the floor:

DISPOSAL BANS: Readily recyclable materials in high demand such as corrugated cardboard and mixed paper account for a significant portion of the landfill. Why not ban them from landfills altogether, says one directive?

MULTI-FAMILY RECYCLING: Assembly Bill (AB) 548 would require owners of dwellings of five units or more to provide adequate recycling services or show that its waste was processed at materials recovery facilities (MRFs) where recyclables are pulled out. Requiring commercial recycling is also being touted as another significant directive.

TAKEOUT FOOD PACKAGING: AB 904 represents a growing interest in requiring restaurants to use recyclable/compostable food packaging to decrease the amount of harmful persistent plastic litter (including polystyrene food containers, known as Styrofoam) from entering our waterways.

NURDLES AT SEA: About 80 percent of waste that ends up in the ocean is land-derived plastic waste, says the California Ocean Protection Council (OPC). OPC wants to extend California's Bottle Bill to include all plastic containers, which contribute significantly and disproportionately to marine debris and can kill sea life. AB 258, a result of the OPC meetings, would require the state and regional water boards to control plastic pellets, known as nurdles, which wash into rivers and streams.

BRET HARTE's student body, with major assistance from PTA parent Mageara Cameron-Spell, again held a recycled art contest. Art works seen throughout this newsletter show just a few of the fun creative pieces produced. Thank you, Mageara and Bret Harte, for your delightful work!

The Beauty House,

Gloria P. D'Agustini, 2nd grade. Photo, Bonnie Burrow

ORGANICS BANS: In a compost pile, grass, leaves, brush, branches and other yard trimmings, when joined with water and air, become nutrient-rich soil. In a landfill, without air, yard trimmings decompose and create methane gas, which, by law, must be collected.

FOOD WASTE COMPOSTING: Food now accounts for nearly 15 percent of the state's waste—about twice as much as it did 15 years ago in Burbank. Food waste composting from restaurants and large institutions could be the next waste reduction frontier. A few cities like San Francisco have had a food waste collection program in place for a few years.

EXPANSION OF E-WASTE LAW: The law now requires a \$6-\$10 fee upon purchase of a new computer monitor, laptop, TV—electronics that contain cathode ray tubes (CRTs)—to help pay for the end-of-life safe recycling of electronic waste (e-waste). If passed, AB 546 would expand the law to include a fee for new CPUs also. AB 48, would phase out the use of specified hazardous materials in consumer electronics, as Europe has done with its Reduction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) directive.

LIGHT BULBS: One assembly bill, AB 722, would ban the sale of incandescent light bulbs and halogens by 2012, similar to what Canada and Australia plan to do. Another, AB 1109, would require the California Energy Commission to cut in half the use of energy for indoor lighting through efficiency standards and require manufacturers to have a system in place for collecting and recycling compact fluorescent lights, since they contain some mercury, lead or other toxic materials.

PHARMACEUTICALS: The presence of pharmaceuticals in ground and surface water could pose a growing threat to public health and the environment. SB 966 would require pharmacies to provide a convenient location for the return and proper management of unused pharmaceuticals.



EARTH DAY'S FUN TIMES

ZIPPY DO DAH, what a wonderful day that was—Burbank's April 21 Earth Day at Stough Canyon Nature Center! The 37th annual celebration opened with a hillside litter cleanup and plant review. A bunch of early morning risers climbed through the Verdugo Hills, black bags in tow, looking for litter to put in its rightful place. There were backyard composting and native plant workshops in the forum-

like Nature Center. Master composter Kreigh Hampel talked about how wiggly worms work their way through a compost pile, and Lili Singer pointed out the nearby mountain plants that need little or no water or care. Burbank Water and Power staff and visiting kids made beaded bracelets that



VOLUNTEERS clean up the Verdugos.



LILI SINGER (left), horticulturist, and Kreigh Hampel, master composter, work the Earth Day crowd at Burbank's Nature Center with tales of plants and compost.

represented the water cycle. They also made blue and green balloons stuffed with uncooked rice that replicated the earth, how much of it was water, how much land. Live animals were in and out of cages—large cages—for their creature comfort. The herpetology society and the Sierra Club were there with nature's best representatives. City plans for bike routes, recycling trivia games, resident Joe Brodrick explaining his biodiesel car and an electric car, drawings for prizes, food from Handy Market and Hometown Buffet all added to the enjoyment. Many thanks to the Southwestern Herpetologists Society, Verdugo Hills Sierra Club, Sidewalk Astronomers, Los Angeles Beekeepers Association, Boy Scouts of America, IKEA, Domino's, Gordon Biersch and the Junior Nature Docents.

IKEA AT LUTHER

IKEA's annual Earth Day adventure with a Burbank school and the Recycle Center happened at Luther Burbank this year. Weeks before Earth Day, IKEA supplied teacher Erica Bonetti and her after-school students, who collect bottles and cans and clean up the campus daily, with large opaque recycling bins to paint with a recycling message and to use in their classrooms as a permanent reminder to recycle. IKEA's Environmental Coordinator, LSue Clemons, gave the kids wooden frames, which were made from dining table wood scraps. The remaining bits and pieces of frames are burned for fuel, she said—another attempt at Zero Waste. Luther kids also wrote essays on Earth Day.

Recycle your love for the Earth, by Claire Aguilar, Luther Burbank School "Earth Day is very important 2 me because without it our world would come crashing down before our own eyes. Our air would be poloted with smoke from cigarettes, factories and cars, sea animals would be nearly extinct because of the sooge going in the ocean. So the next time you see trash on the floor, pick it up and recycle your love for the earth!!!"

The extraordinary centerpiece of an **EMERSON SCHOOL** carnival, celebrated on the evening before Earth Day, was a circular clothesline of student artwork and essays about enjoying and protecting the earth.



Photo by Suzanne Weerts

McKINLEY SCHOOL enjoyed their fourth annual Earth Day games with sack races, three-legged races and the ever-popular trash toss in which empty water bottles (later recycled, of course) are tossed into pristinely clean Burbank recycling carts. Fourth and fifth grade posters about recycling and caring for the Earth were displayed around the fence during the games.



Photo by Debbie Riggs

EDISON SCHOOL kids, under the direction of teacher Debbie Riggs, planted sunflower seeds, provided by the City, in honor of Earth Day.



Carverse, Jenny Gentemann, 5th grade. Photo, Bonnie Burrow



City of Burbank
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
BURBANK RECYCLE CENTER

500 South Flower Street
Burbank, CA 91502-2106
(818) 238-3900

(818) 841-9700 (Saturdays)

Monday-Friday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.



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HIGHLIGHTS FROM HEROES

RECYCLING HEROES are commonplace in Burbank. We like to call them “zero wasters”—those outstanding eco-friendly people who care for our community by wasting less, recycling more, reducing toxics and using recycled materials. This year’s good, green Heroes are:

Mark Clarke, *maintenance and operations supervisor*; and **Randy Ogawa**, *trades supervisor*; Burbank Unified School District (BUSD), Facilities.

For more than six years, Mark and Randy have been practicing Integrated Pest Management (IPM) to suppress and prevent pest problems on school campuses. To oversimplify, IMP uses the least toxic strategies first. Mark and Randy vacuum bees rather than spray them. They steam weeds rather than spray herbicides. Their mulching mowers return leaves and grass to the soil. Mark and Randy’s gardening methods have kept thousands of young people free from daily exposure to pesticides on school grounds. They work in concert with nature through mulching, composting, grass-cycling, carefully monitoring the sprinkler system and making the best use of native plants and trees.

Chad Blouin, *manager*; and **Sonia Baeza**, *assistant manager*; Ross Dress for Less, Golden Mall.

Ross managers Chad and Sonia are recycling enough cardboard—six four-cubic-yard bins daily—to fill a large two-car garage every week, in addition to a bin’s worth of plastic film. Ross crews break down boxes, stack them tightly, squish the film and help City crews load them every morning—all before Golden Mall traffic hits. Chad says the City’s service means that Ross sends much less stuff to landfills and saves hauling and tipping fees.

“If more cities did what Burbank does,” says Chad, “there would be a lot more landfill space left in this state.”

Frank Dvorachek, **Joe Dvorachek** and **Kathleen Trumbo**, *owners*, 3 D Plastics Inc., 420 Varney Street.

Burbank’s 3D Plastics knows that recycling doesn’t mean collection only: Recycling would be meaningless if companies did not remanufacture “waste” into useful products. For over 40 years, the two brothers and one sister (the third “D”) have been producing



2006 RECYCLING HEROES, Rhys and Sherry Tilley, *Tilley’s 76*; Randy Ogawa, *BUSD Facilities*; Chad Blouin, *Ross Dress for Less*; Sonia Baeza, *Ross Dress for Less*; Frank Dvorachek, *3D Plastics, Inc.*

injection molded plastic parts for everyone from artists to home improvement chains to state agencies; but since 1998, 3D has used 100-percent post-consumer crumb rubber from millions of worn-out old California tires to make traffic barricades and bases for signs and signals and other safety products. Consequently, the state has seen fit to twice award 3D Plastics a Recycling Market Development Zone low-interest loan to expand its business.

Sherry and Rhys Tilley, *Tilley’s 76*, 1401 N. Hollywood Way

Rhys (a Welsh name, pronounced Reese) Tilley made a common-sense statement to Recycle Center staff that will be cherished forever: “By law, we at the gas station must properly dispose of waste oil, oil filters, coolants, tires and more, so why not all the packaging we handle, too?”

The Tilley family’s 45-year-old business recycles every box, paper and plastic container in sight, say Burbank Sanitation drivers, and it’s clean and uncontaminated. Sherry and Rhys Tilley even canvas the gas islands for the newspaper, bottles and cans that customers unload while waiting for their gas tank to fill up. Rhys told the City: “Thanks to your programs and promotion, we in the business community can help with the recycling of waste in our town.”

